

### Claims

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1, 15, 21-25, 44-64, 66-76, 79-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-290; (b) sequences complementary to a sequence of (a); and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (a) or (b) under moderately stringent conditions.

2. The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, 26, 32, 65, 90, 92-98, 103-108, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 175, 180, 189-196, 264 and 266.

3. An isolated polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 and 2.

4. A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleotide molecule according to claim 3.

5. A host cell transformed with an expression vector according to claim 4.

6. The host cell of claim 5 wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, yeast and mammalian cells.

7. A fusion protein comprising a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 and 2.

8. A fusion protein according to claim 7, wherein the fusion protein

comprises an expression enhancer that increases expression of the fusion protein in a host cell transfected with a polynucleotide encoding the fusion protein.

9. A fusion protein according to claim 7, wherein the fusion protein comprises a T helper epitope that is not present within the polypeptide of claim 1.

10. A fusion protein according to claim 7, wherein the fusion protein comprises an affinity tag.

11. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein according to claim 7.

12. An isolated monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to a Chlamydia protein that comprises an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence according to claim 1, or a complement of any of the foregoing polynucleotide sequences.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 1, and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide molecule according to claim 3 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide and a physiologically acceptable carrier, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by polynucleotide molecule selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291; (b) sequences complementary to a sequence of (a); and (c) sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (a) or (b) under moderately stringent conditions.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide molecule and a physiologically acceptable carrier, wherein the polynucleotide molecule comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291; (b) sequences complementary to a sequence of (a); and (c) sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (a) or (b) under moderately stringent conditions.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier and at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a fusion protein according to claim 7;
- (b) a polynucleotide according to claim 11; and
- (c) an antibody according to claim 12.

18. A vaccine comprising a polypeptide according to claim 1, and an immunostimulant.

19. A vaccine comprising a polynucleotide molecule according to claim 3 and an immunostimulant.

20. A vaccine comprising a polypeptide and an immunostimulant, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291; (b) sequences complementary to a sequence of (a); and (c) sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (a) or (b) under moderately stringent conditions.

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21. A vaccine comprising a DNA molecule and an immunostimulant, wherein the DNA molecule comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a)

sequences recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291; (b) sequences complementary to a sequence of (a); and (c) sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (a) or (b) under moderately stringent conditions.

22. A vaccine comprising an immunostimulant and at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a fusion protein according to claim 7;
- (b) a polynucleotide according to claim 11; and
- (c) an antibody according to claim 12.

23. The vaccine of any one of claims 18-22 wherein the immunostimulant is an adjuvant.

24. A method for inducing protective immunity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 13-

17.

25. A method for inducing protective immunity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient a vaccine according to any one of claims 18-22.

26. An isolated polyclonal antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to a *Chlamydia* protein that comprises an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence according to claim 1, or a complement of any of the foregoing polynucleotide sequences.

27. A method for detecting *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;
- (b) contacting the sample with a polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence

encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291. (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions; and

(c) detecting the presence of antibodies that bind to the polypeptide.

28. A method for detecting *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising:

(a) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;

(b) contacting the sample with a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291 (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions; and

(c) detecting the presence of antibodies that bind to the fusion protein.

29. The method of any one of claims 27 and 28 wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, serum, plasma, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid and urine.

30. A method for detecting *Chlamydia* infection in a biological sample, comprising:

(a) contacting the sample with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers is specific for a polynucleotide molecule comprising a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291; and

(b) detecting in the sample a polynucleotide sequence that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers, thereby detecting *Chlamydia* infection.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers comprises at least about 10 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291.

32. A method for detecting *Chlamydia* infection in a biological sample, comprising:

(a) contacting the sample with one or more oligonucleotide probes specific for a polynucleotide molecule comprising a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291; and

(b) detecting in the sample a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes to the oligonucleotide probe, thereby detecting *Chlamydia* infection.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the probe comprises at least about 15 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291.

34. A method for detecting *Chlamydia* infection in a biological sample, comprising:

(a) contacting the biological sample with a binding agent which is capable of binding to a polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291, (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence

of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions; and

(b) detecting in the sample a polypeptide that binds to the binding agent, thereby detecting *Chlamydia* infection in the biological sample.

35. A method of detecting *Chlamydia* infection in a biological sample, comprising:

(a) contacting the biological sample with a binding agent which is capable of binding to a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291, (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions; and

(b) detecting in the sample a polypeptide that binds to the binding agent, thereby detecting *Chlamydia* infection in the biological sample.

36. The method of any one of claims 34 and 35 wherein the binding agent is a monoclonal antibody.

37. The method of any one of claims 34 and 35 wherein the binding agent is a polyclonal antibody.

38. The method of any one of claims 34 and 35 wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, sputum, serum, plasma, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid and urine.

39. A diagnostic kit comprising:

(a) a polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291, (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions; and

(b) a detection reagent.

40. A diagnostic kit comprising:

(a) a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291 (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions; and

(b) a detection reagent.

41. The kit of claims 39 or 40 wherein the polypeptide is immobilized on a solid support.

42. The kit of claims 39 or 40 wherein the detection reagent comprises a reporter group conjugated to a binding agent.

43. The kit of claim 42 wherein the binding agent is selected from the group consisting of anti-immunoglobulins, Protein G, Protein A and lectins.



44. The kit of claim 42 wherein the reporter group is selected from the group consisting of radioisotopes, fluorescent groups, luminescent groups, enzymes, biotin and dye particles.

45. A diagnostic kit comprising at least two oligonucleotide primers, at least one of the oligonucleotide primers being specific for a polynucleotide molecule comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291.

46. A diagnostic kit according to claim 43, wherein at least one of the oligonucleotide primers comprises at least about 10 contiguous nucleotides of a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291.

47. A diagnostic kit comprising at least one oligonucleotide probe, the oligonucleotide probe being specific for a polynucleotide molecule comprising a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291.

48. A kit according to claim 47, wherein the oligonucleotide probe comprises at least about 15 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291.

49. A diagnostic kit comprising:  
(a) at least one antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, according to claim 22; and  
(b) a detection reagent.

50. A method for treating *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining peripheral blood cells from the patient;
- (b) incubating the cells in the presence of at least one polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said antigen comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291 (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions, such that T cells proliferate; and
- (c) administering to the patient the proliferated T cells.

51. A method for treating *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining peripheral blood cells from the patient;
- (b) incubating the cells in the presence of at least one polynucleotide, comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 1-4, 15, 16, 21-25, 27, 29, 33, 44-64, 66-88, 110-119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 169-174, 181-188, 263, 265 and 267-291 (ii) sequences complementary to a sequence of (i), and (c) polynucleotide sequences that hybridize to a sequence of (i) or (ii) under moderately stringent conditions, such that T cells proliferate; and
- (c) administering to the patient the proliferated T cells.

52. The method of any one of claims 50 and 51 wherein the step of incubating the T cells is repeated one or more times.

53. The method of any one of claims 50 and 51 wherein step (a) further comprises separating T cells from the peripheral blood cells, and the cells incubated in step (b) are the T cells.

54. The method of any one of claims 50 and 51 wherein step (a) further comprises separating CD4+ cells or CD8+ T cells from the peripheral blood cells, and the cells proliferated in step (b) are CD4+ or CD8+ T cells.

55. The method of any one of claims 50 and 51 wherein step (a) further comprises separating gamma/delta T lymphocytes from the peripheral blood cells, and the cells proliferated in step (b) are gamma/delta T lymphocytes.

56. The method of any one of claims 50 and 51 wherein step (b) further comprises cloning one or more T cells that proliferated in the presence of the polypeptide.

57. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising T cells proliferated in the presence of a polypeptide of claim 1, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier.

58. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising T cells proliferated in the presence of a polynucleotide of claim 3, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier.

59. A method for treating *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) incubating antigen presenting cells in the presence of at least one polypeptide of claim 1;
- (b) administering to the patient the incubated antigen presenting cells.

60. A method for treating *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) introducing at least one polynucleotide of claim 3 into antigen presenting cells;
- (b) administering to the patient the antigen presenting cells.

61. The method of ~~claims 59 or 60~~ wherein the antigen-presenting cells are selected from the group consisting of dendritic cells, macrophage cells, B cells fibroblast cells, monocyte cells, and stem cells.

62. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising antigen presenting cells incubated in the presence of a polypeptide of claim 1, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier.

63. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment if *Chlamydia* infection in a patient, comprising antigen presenting cells incubated in the presence of a polynucleotide of claim 3, in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier.

64. A polypeptide comprising an immunogenic portion of a *Chlamydia* antigen, wherein said immunogenic portion comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18, 19, 31, 39, 93-96, 98, 100-102, 106, 108, 138-140, 158, 167, 168, 246, 247 and 254-256.

65. An immunogenic epitope of a *Chlamydia* antigen, comprising a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 31, 98, 106, 108, 138-140, 158, 167, 168, 246, 247 or 254-256.

66. An isolated polypeptide comprising a sequence recited in any one of SEQ ID NO: 5-14, 17-20, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 39-43, 65, 89-109, 138-158, 167, 168, 224-262, 246, 247, 254-256 and 292.